



Press Release

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On: TEXAS APRIL 1 CITRUS FORECAST

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AUSTIN . . . The April 1, 2006, Texas grapefruit production is forecast at 4.8 million boxes for the 2005-2006 season, down 27 percent from last year's 6.6 million boxes. This forecast is down 6 percent from January.

All orange production is estimated at 1.53 million boxes, down 14 percent from last year. The orange forecast is unchanged from January. Early and midseason oranges account for 1.3 million boxes and Valencias for 230,000 boxes. The production of all oranges totaled 1.77 million boxes last season.

Due to lack of rainfall this season, growers have continued to irrigate in order to maintain fruit size and quality. By the end of March, most citrus fruit had been harvested. However, unusually strong winds during early March resulted in heavy fruit drop from the small amount of trees that had not already been harvested. Grapefruit harvest is nearly 90 percent complete. Harvest of Navel oranges is virtually complete and only 25 percent of the Valencia crop remains on the trees.

United States grapefruit production is forecast at 28.9 million boxes, up 14 percent from last year. All orange production is forecast at 208 million boxes, down 3 percent from last year.